REMARKS:

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26, 28, and 29. Claims 3, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26, 28 and 29 are amended herein. Claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13, 15, 17-19, 21 and 27 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented.

Thus, claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26, 28, and 29 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

OBJECTION TO THE CLAIMS:

On page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner objected to claims 3-4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26 and 28-29 due to grammatical and structural informalities. Pertinent claims are amended herein.

Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112:

On page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 3-4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph.

Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the Specification as filed does not provide support for first and second options and providing data of a commodity to a user without requiring the user's knowledge of the specification of the commodity.

Applicants respectfully submit that support for these features of the invention can be found at least on page 8, line 23 through page 9, line 22; page 13, lines 3-26; page 14; line 18-23 and Figs. 3, 4, 7 of the Specification as filed. For example, as illustrated in Fig. 3 of the present application, the invention includes displaying "functional retrieval screen" and "use purpose retrieval screen" which enable the user to specify a purpose or use for which the desired commodity is to be used without requiring the user to specify required specification to achieve such use, and be provided with a commodity that achieves the desired use.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(e):

On page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 3-4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26 and 28-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,064,982 (Puri).

Puri does not teach or suggest "displaying a first option indicating the objects of use identifying specific operations implemented by the commodities on a terminal of the user

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together with a second option listing the specifications of said commodities", as recited in claim 1 as amended (see also claims 12, 14, 16, 20, 22, 23 and 26 reciting similar features).

Instead, in Puri the customers' needs are identified by having the customers select from statements expressing a particular product category needed (see, col. 5, lines 1-8 and Fig. 4), where the statements identifying product categories such as security, information publishing and communication, are provided to the customer only after a customer selects a product.

Claim 1, as amended, also recites "displaying information of the commodity having the specification information corresponding to the selected object of use without requiring the user's knowledge of the specification information when selecting said object of use", where the information of the commodity is "retrievable using said specification information of the commodity as the retrieval condition responsive to a direct selection of the specification information from among specifications displayed via said second option."

Claim 24 also recites "retrieving data regarding a commodity having specification information corresponding to the usage information selected... without requiring the user's knowledge of the specifications when selecting the usage information", where the data of the commodity is retrievable "using the specification information as a retrieval condition responsive to a direct selection of the specification information from among specifications listed via said second option." See also claims 25 and 26 reciting similar features.

Puri, in contrast, requires the customer to have knowledge of products needed and interact in a product selection session to configure a category of the identified product. As explicitly stated in Puri, "the customer is guided through statements of a particular product using cascading style sheets for selecting packaging options related to the product" (see, col. 5, lines 1-10 and 50-60) which is subsequent to identification of the product by the customer.

Puri does not teach or suggest "retrieving only a list of commodities matching said selection using the first option, where said list of commodities is retrievable using specification information as a retrieval condition responsive to a direct selection from among the specifications listed via said second option", as recited in claim 28.

In contrast, Puri discusses a customer needs identification page where statements are provided to the customer identifying specific product requirements after the customer has identified a needed product (see, Fig. 4 and corresponding text).

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Claim 29 also recites "a specification retrieval option" displayed "simultaneously with an object of use option listing objects of use" and "providing specification information of a commodity matching an object of use selected by a first user from said object of use option of said initial menu", where the specification information is retrievable responsive to "a direct selection of components of the commodity by a second user using said specification retrieval option."

Therefore, Puri does not disclose or suggest at least the feature of "displaying first option together with second option" and retrieving specification information in response to selection of "object of use via the first option" or "a direct selection of the specification information via the second option" (see above discussion of independent claims).

Accordingly, Puri does not disclose every element of the Applicants' claim 1. In order for a reference to anticipate a claim, the reference must teach each and every element of the claim (MPEP §2131). Therefore, since Puri does not disclose the features recited in independent claim 1, as stated above, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Puri, and withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection is earnestly and respectfully solicited.

Claims depending from the independent claims and include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not disclosed by Puri.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT:

Applicants respectfully request entry of amendments to the claims because the amendments were made to clarify features in the claims and do not introduce significant changes that would require a further search.

CONCLUSION:

Claims 3, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26, 28 and 29 are amended herein, and claims 1, 2, 5-11, 13, 15, 17-19, 21 and 27 remain cancelled. Thus, claims 3, 4, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22-26, 28, and 29 are pending and under consideration.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
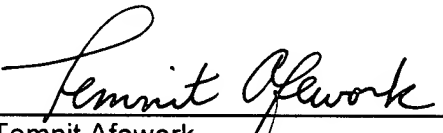
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Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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